

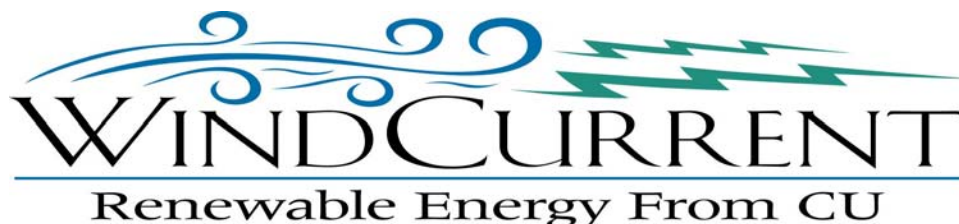


The Front Porch

**The Newsletter of the City of Springfield,
Planning and Development Department's
Neighborhood Conservation Office
Spring/Summer 2003 Issue**

Mission:

Neighborhoods are the building blocks of our community. Springfield must strive to promote strong neighborhoods that instill pride in their residents. Therefore, the Neighborhood Conservation Office is committed to working with the Community to ensure strong viable neighborhoods.



Submitted by Cara Shaefer

WindCurrent is wind-generated electricity City Utilities purchases from a wind farm in Kansas. It's available to any CU electric customer in 100 kilowatt hour blocks for just \$5 per block more than the cost of the regularly metered electricity. Customers choose the number of blocks and may increase or decrease the amount at any time.

In October 2000 CU began offering this green power option to customers. Cara Shaefer, CU energy management specialist, said "surveys had indicated that many of our customers were interested in renewable energy. When we began the program in the fall of 2000, we were pleasantly surprised by the amount of interest in the program."

However participation quickly declined as the infamous winter of 2000 - 01 hit with skyrocketing natural gas prices and record cold temperatures. Approximately 150 customers are currently enrolled, down from a peak of more than 200.

"I think that people understand that it takes this initial investment, however small, in the renewable technology to make a difference in the long run," Shaefer added.

Because electricity mixes as it travels through power lines, there is no way to guarantee that a customer's actual electricity will be from the wind-generated source. However, by offering WindCurrent, CU is ensuring that a portion of the electricity used in the Springfield area is from a renewable source. CU purchases 35 megawatt hours monthly. That is enough electricity to provide power to about 40 homes each month in Springfield.

The wind turbines are owned and operated by Westar Energy and have been built very near the Jeffrey Energy Center, which is five miles north of St. Marys, Kansas. The 750 kW variable-speed wind turbines are mounted on two separate 170-foot towers. Each turbine has a three-blade rotor attached to the turbine that is turned by the wind, generating electricity.

To participate in the WindCurrent program or find out more about renewable energy, call Cara at 831-8348.

Fp

Cara Shaefer is an Energy Management Specialist with City Utilities



Make plans to attend FutureFest, the kick-off event for the renewed Vision 20/20 process, on Saturday, May 17 at Jordan Valley Ice Park.

The event will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. with a number of opportunities to offer input on the future direction of Springfield and Greene County.

The City and County are hosting the event, which will include free refreshments and activities for kids.

Each of the eight Vision 20/20 planning groups will have a station where citizens can select the priorities most important to them. In addition, those attending will be invited to fill out a planning survey to assess their opinions on various issues affecting the City and County.

This year's renewed effort will focus on creating a one- to five-year strategic plan within the overall framework of the original Vision 20/20 comprehensive plan. The topics for Vision 20/20 - The Future is Now are: Affordable Housing, Center City; Cultural Planning; Education; Growth and Development; Regional Planning; Transportation; and Water Quality.

Vision 20/20 - The Future is Now builds on the long-range planning process undertaken in the mid-1990s where more than 350 citizens devoted some 25,000 hours to creating a comprehensive plan. Since then, the community has supported a number of initiatives to put Vision 20/20's recommendations into action. The FutureFest will include an exhibit showing examples of Vision 20/20 in action.

If you would like to receive upcoming information on Vision 20/20, you can register on the Web at www.springfieldmogov.org/vision2020 or call the City's Public Information Office at 864-1010.

Ep

Publication Spotlight

"How To... Have a Garage Sale"



If you are planning to have a garage or yard sale, the *How To Have a Garage Sale* brochure will ensure that this fun event is conducted in compliance with the City of Springfield's ordinance. The goal is to avoid problems that can otherwise arise because of garage sales. The brochure provides answers to specific questions such as:

- *Who do I contact before I have a garage sale?*
- *What can I sell at my garage sale?*
- *How often can I have a garage sale?*
- *How can I advertise my garage sale?*
- *What guidelines apply to charitable organizations?*
- *What phone numbers do I call for more information*

Copies of *How To Have a Garage Sale* are available at the Busch Municipal Building 840 North Boonville or by mail. Call the Public Information Office at (417) 864-1010 to receive your free copy today.

"The Front Porch"

**CITY of
SPRINGFIELD**



Information published by the
Neighborhood Conservation Office
in conjunction with the
Public Information Office - Spring/Summer 2003

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2003 Annual Landscape Awards

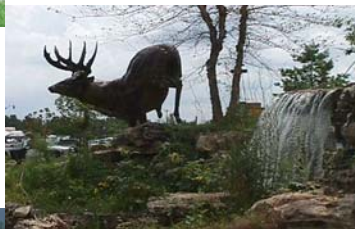
Are you proud of your landscaping? Does your neighborhood have an eye catching entrance? If so we urge you to enter the 2003 Annual Landscape Awards competition. This annual event, hosted by the Springfield Planning and Zoning Commission, is designed to give special recognition to properties with attractive landscaping. Applications are free, so why not nominate a few of your deserving neighbors, or local businesses that go the extra mile to beautify Springfield? Nominations can be submitted for the following categories:

- Residence—Single Family
- Residential Subdivision/Neighborhood
- Retail Establishment
- Manufacturing or Office Establishment
- Improvement or Rehabilitation of an Existing Site
- Public Properties
- Other



The Spring Creek Subdivision won first place in the category of Residential Subdivision/Neighborhood or Mixed Use Development.

The American National Fish and Wildlife Museum (pictured right) was last years winner in the "Other" category.



Prime Trucking Inc., received first place in the category of Manufacturing or Office Establishment.

For more information, or to receive an application or brochure on the 2003 Annual Landscape Awards, please contact Ron Carey with the City of Springfield at 864-1089. **FP**

Fireworks Notice



The Springfield Fire Department intends to make a concerted effort to address illegal fireworks within the City over the 2003 Fourth of July holiday period.

The City Fire Code prohibits the possession, manufacture, storage, offer, sale, handling and discharge of fireworks within the city limits. The only exceptions are granted for public displays with valid permits and certain novelty items such as some sparklers, party poppers, toy smoke devices and glowworms.

This year, the Fire and Police departments will take a more aggressive approach by confiscating illegal fireworks when they respond to calls instead of issuing warnings.

Neighborhood Associations may wish to consider applying for a permit for a public display in order to help reduce the potential for illegal fireworks in your neighborhoods. For information on permit requirements, call the Fire Department at 864-1500.

The City prohibits the possession and discharge of fireworks because of the safety hazard to the public and to individuals using fireworks. Each year, thousands of Americans, half of them children, are treated in emergency rooms for fireworks-related injuries.

More than half of the children treated were under the supervision of adults when they sustained fireworks-related injuries, according to the National Fire Protection Association. About half the injuries to children are eyes and hands; a quarter of the children injured are simply bystanders. About 10 percent of the children injured annually suffer permanent damage.

Please help Springfield residents enjoy a safe Fourth of July holiday by encouraging residents of your neighborhoods to adhere to the City Code and instead enjoy fireworks displays at a neighborhood display or at the City's annual Firefall event on June 28 this year at the Springfield-Branson Regional Airport.

FP



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Neighbor Woods Funding Available to Replenish the Urban Forest



The Springfield Public Works Department recently unveiled the Neighbor Woods grant program. Neighbor Woods is intended to enhance Springfield's neighborhoods by providing financial assistance for tree plantings to interested organizations. The program was created utilizing funds from the City's Community Tree and Landscaping Project. Applicants are eligible for city grants of between \$1,000 and \$5,000 to provide funding for the planting of new trees in designated project areas. Eligible Applicants include:

- Neighborhood Organizations
- Public Schools
- Non-profit groups

Applicants for Neighbor Woods must consult with the City's Public Works Department no later than June 1. Written applications must be submitted by July 1. If your organization is interested in learning more about the benefits of Neighbor Woods please contact Joe Payne, Public Works Operations Supervisor, at 864-1136. **Fp**

Neighborhood Assessments Generate Progress!

The Neighborhoods Assessments process is underway, giving residents a voice and bringing needed improvements to Springfield Neighborhoods. The Springfield

Planning Department is conducting workshops where residents have the opportunity to "**Assess their Neighborhood's Condition**", and help to identify where "**Targeted Neighborhood Improvements**" are needed. So far, the following projects have come about as a result of participants suggestions during assessment workshops:

- New bus shelters in the Grant Beach Neighborhood.
- Intersection improvements at Chestnut Exp. and West Ave.
- Pedestrian lighting installed in railroad underpasses in Woodland Heights.
- A new crime watch program is being established in the Heart of the Westside.

To find out more about the Neighborhood Assessments program or to find out when a workshop will be held in your neighborhood please contact Christian Lentz at 864-1033. **Fp**



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